

Providence Feb. 12. 1778.

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As I cannot believe, that the prejudice, which Party warmth commonly creates in little minds, has so far effected yours, as to make you forget an old acquaintance, I must still address you, as my friend, and will make no apology for writing you on a subject, the most interesting to me. It is probable that before you may receive this, you will ^{have} heard of my going to Boston, being rejected by my countrymen & sent back in dish, to the place from whence I came. As the circumstances of this matter, may be misapprehended, I take the freedom to relate to you, the whole of my conduct, since my leaving home, not doubting your readiness to do all the justice to my character which truth may call for.

Prior to the 19th April 1775, I had determined on a Voyage to England. About a week after that period, engaged a passage for myself and wife, on board Capt. Callahan for London, leaving behind me, all my effects and a family of ten children. Upon my arrival there, finding the troubles in America not subsided, as I had hoped, I determined on returning home, as soon as possible, but no convenient opportunity offered, by which my wife could come, till the summer 1776, when I engaged a passage, but unhappily at that time, she was taken ill, & languished till the next April, when she died. I then took passage for New York, in my way home, where I arrived in July last. Immediately on my going on shore, I was told that it was expected, that the Deputies, should wait on the Mayor, to give in their names. I soon after passing with a friend by the Mayor's Office, he proposed I should step in there, which I did, when to the surprise of my friend as well as myself, after giving in my name, the Bath of Allegiance was tendered me, which being thus circumstanced I took. After tarrying at New York, a month or two with Brother Fayle, I went to Newport and immediately on my arrival, apply'd to General Pigot, for leave to go to my family, but was told, that as I left New York with that intent, I ought to have got leave of General Clinton, and advis'd me to write to him for that purpose, but not having any answers ^{what I did} ~~having~~ after having spent two months at Newport, I went back to New York, when hearing that Lord Howe was gone to Newport, I returned back there, and obtaining leave, I embarked in a flag going to Howland's Ferry, where we arriv'd the next day & having had leave from the Council at Providence, I landed, & with the permission of Col. Hawkins, the Commanding Officer there, I proceeded to Boston & got there on Wednesday the 28th of July. Immediately on my getting to town, I made my arrival known, to the President.

of the Council, and the next day, was called first before the Committee of Inspection, then before the House of Representatives, and afterwards before a Committee of both Houses, and was questioned.

Whether I had been an addressee to Gov. Hutchinson or General Gage?

Whether I had since my absence, received any favor or support from the Government of Great Britain?

Whether I had since my leaving Britain, been concerned in the importation of any goods into New York or New port.

To which questions, I answered in the negative. I was then asked if I had not brought a letter to Lord Howe - to which I answered, that having had a long correspondence in the mercantile way, with Mr. Mark Huisk of Nottingham, who was honored with his Lordship's friendship, I brought a Letter from him, mentioning me as his friend and desiring, in case I should ask any favor of him, not inconsistent with his Office, he would grant it to me. I took this Letter, because I expected to have to ask his Lordship's permission to return home. After this I was asked, Whether I had taken an Oath of Allegiance to the King of Great Britain? - To which I answered, that I had, & related the Circumstances of my taking it. Upon which I was asked, whether I would renounce that Oath, and take an Oath of Allegiance to the State? - I answered that I was ready to take an Oath or give any security for my peaceable behaviour, to submit to all Laws & pay every tax or fine that might be imposed upon me, & that I should hold myself bound, both in honor & conscience, not to machinate or conspire against a state, which should receive me into its protection, but that I could not with a quiet conscience, let the consequence be what it might, take an Oath that I would bear arms, against the King of Great Britain, to whom I had already sworn allegiance. I then prayed, that I might be suffered to remain with my numerous family of Children, now deprived of their mother. - but I was told that unless I would swear that I would bear arms, I must not expect to be suffered to stay. - The Court then passed a Order, that I should be immediately sent to General Spencer or Providence with a driver that he would send me back to New port. - Thus my friends, am I going on ~~with a driver~~ ~~into a Country~~ ~~where I have nothing to support~~ ~~me~~, banished from my Children & friends whom I may never see again.

Since my coming to this place, I have heard that Mr. Russell, who
lives in my house, has been forbid to pay me, any more rent, from
which I apprehend my estate is to be forfeited. I will not comment
on this treatment, I am sure, your own feelings will suggest all I
could say. Should it be in your power to ~~obtain my return~~
point out any way, by which I might be restored to my family, I will,
make no doubt of your readiness to do it. Any thing you may write
to Brother Jonathan or Brother Payer will find its way to me.
If you think a memorial to the Congress, founded on the relation
I have given will answer a good purpose, I should esteem a favor
if you would put one in, in my name. I am
my friend, with affection

Yours John Amory

To the Honorable James Lovell Esq.

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